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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/814,673	03/22/2001	Matthew Murasko	391133	7663

7590

01/15/2003

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EXAMINER

BERCK, KENNETH A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2879

DATE MAILED: 01/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/814,673

Applicant(s)

MURASKO ET AL.

Examiner

Ken A Berck

Art Unit

2879

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment A, filed Sept 10, 2002 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calamia et al (US 4,999,936) in view of Hoffman (US 5,497,572).

Calamia discloses a sign, a first electrode formed on the sign surface, the first electrode having a lead that extends to a perimeter of the surface of the sign, a luminescent layer substantially aligned with the first electrode, a conductor layer substantially aligned with the luminescent layer, a second electrode formed onto the sign, an interconnect tab having a pair of spaced, parallel slots extending inward from the sign perimeter to define a male end.

Calamia fails to clearly point out using a connector configured to extend into the slots, a locking pin and a key pin.

Hoffman discloses (fig 6) a connector configured to extend into the slots and a key pin (56) in order to connect the sign to the automobile electrical system and a locking pin (12) for locking the connector with the locking holes (50) to the surface of the sign.

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Hence it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the sign of Calamia with the connector configured to extend into the slots in order to connect the sign to the automobile electrical system and a locking pin for locking the connector to the surface of the sign, as taught by Hoffman.

Claims 6-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calamia et al (US 4,999,936) in view of Hoffman (US 5,497,572) and Burrows (US 5,856,031).

Calamia discloses a sign, a first electrode formed on the sign surface, the first electrode having a lead that extends to a perimeter of the surface of the sign, a luminescent layer substantially aligned with the first electrode, a conductor layer substantially aligned with the luminescent layer, a second electrode formed onto the sign, an interconnect tab having a pair of spaced, parallel slots extending inward from the sign perimeter to define a male end, a sealing layer and an outlining electrode (20) formed onto the sealing layer and substantially circumscribing at least one of the second and third perimeter.

Calamia fails to clearly point out using a connector configured to extend into the slots, a locking pin and a key pin.

Hoffman discloses (fig 6) a connector configured to extend into the slots and a key pin in order to connect the sign to the automobile electrical system and a locking pin for locking the connector to the surface of the sign.

Hoffman fails to point out a dielectric layer.

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Burrows discloses (15) a dielectric layer of barium-titanate with an exposed dielectric layer in order to separate the electrodes composed of silver.

Hence it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the sign of Calamia with the connector configured to extend into the slots in order to connect the sign to the automobile electrical system and a locking pin for locking the connector to the surface of the sign, as taught by Hoffman and a dielectric layer of barium-titanate with an exposed dielectric layer in order to separate the electrodes, as taught by Burrows.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

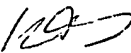
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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ken A Berck whose telephone number is (703)305-7984. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (703)305-4794. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-7382 for regular communications and (703)308-7382 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

Kab 
January 13, 2003


NIMESHKUMAR D. PATEL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800